

DSP Spring Town Halls

Strengthening Families



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Welcome!



Wendy Henderson
Administrator



John Elliott
Deputy Administrator



A top-down view of several hands of different skin tones holding white rectangular cards on a wooden floor. The hands are arranged in a circle, and the cards are also arranged in a circle, some overlapping. The background is a dark, blue-tinted wooden floor.

Vision

All Wisconsin children and youth are safe and loved members of thriving families and communities.

**We strive for justice in the
child welfare system
through addressing
systemic oppression,
inequity and racism.**

Caring for Kids Awards

2023 Awardees

- Chandra Cooper, Grateful Girls Milwaukee
- Kelly Firlus, Juneau County Department of Human Services
- Teresa Kovach, Portage County Department of Human Services
- Jean Northway, Courage Milwaukee
- Rhonda Rummel, Kewaunee County Department of Human Services
- Mark Ryskoski, Trempealeau County Human Services Department



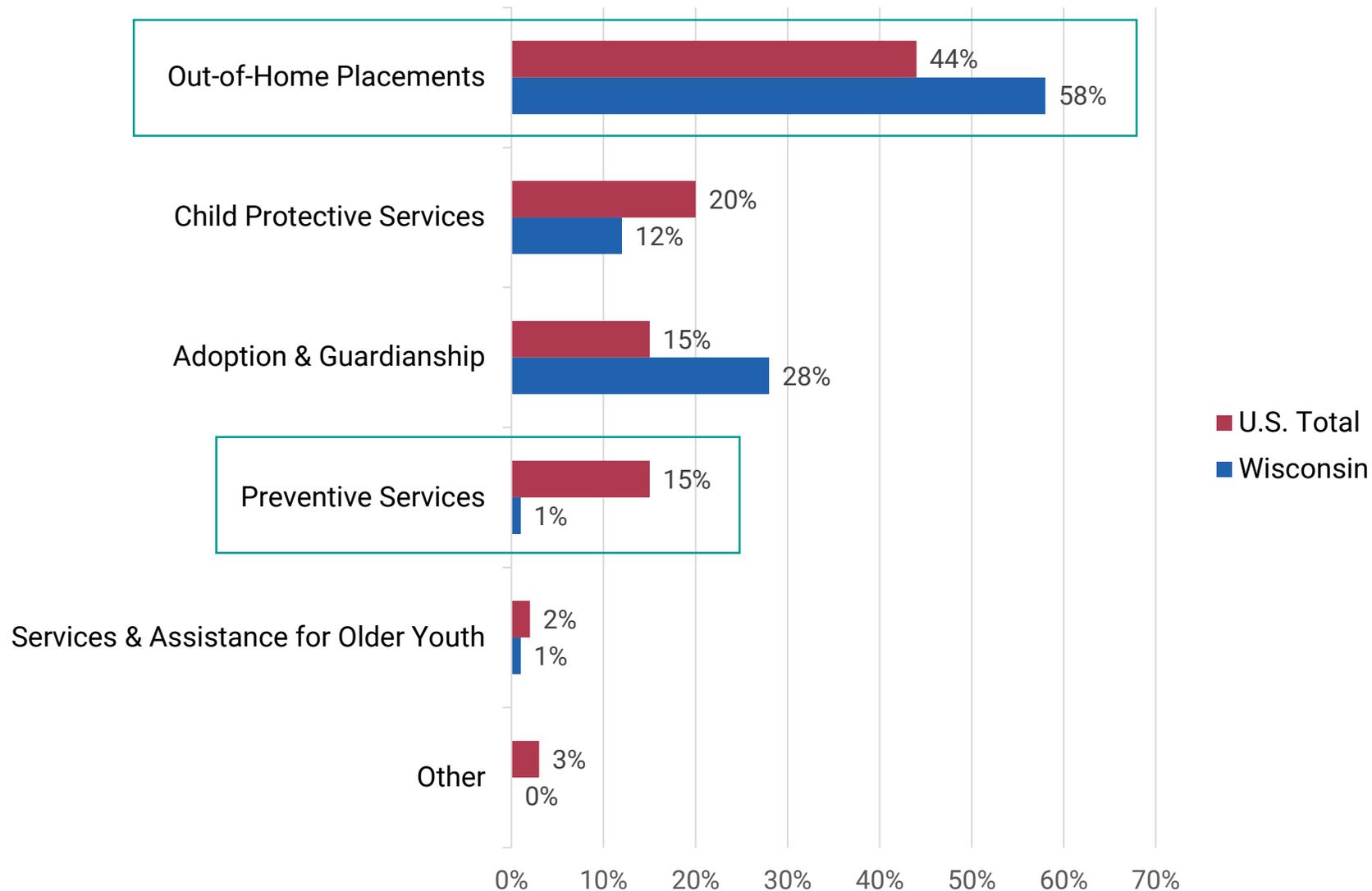
**April is
Family
Strengthening
Month!**



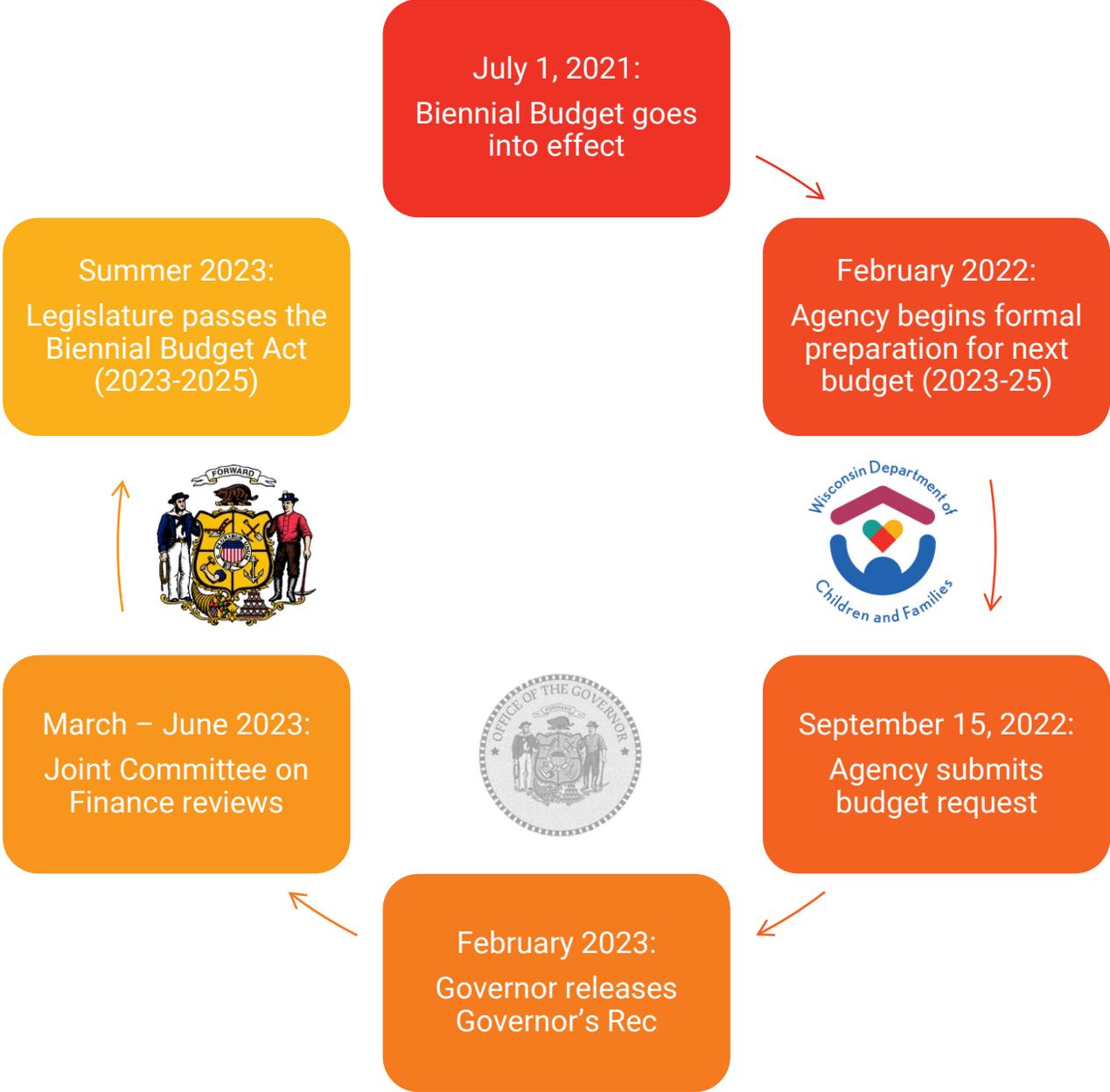
Current Funding Landscape

Wisconsin uses its **state/local** funds differently than the national pattern.

The state spends a larger proportion on out-of-home placements and a smaller proportion on preventive services.



Wisconsin Biennial Budget Cycle



A group of diverse children, including a boy with a beard, a girl with blonde hair, a girl with dark hair, a girl with dark skin, and a boy with dark skin, are huddled together and smiling. They are looking up at the camera. The background is bright and slightly blurred.

**Proposed new
investments.**

Supporting families in home.



Keeping Families Together

\$35 million

in evidence-based intensive services

\$6 million

for domestic abuse grants

\$5 million

to expand HV services



Huge Investments in In-Home Services

- Invests \$17.9 million annually in **new** in-home service interventions to support efforts to keep families together
 - Build evidence-based prevention services and other family supports
 - Keep families together and reduce use of out-of-home care
 - Serves both child protection and youth justice populations
- Continues support for the **Targeted Safety Support Funds (TSSF)** program
- Increases funding by \$1.2 million in SFY24 and \$4 million in SFY25 to expand to **Home Visiting** services



Supporting Survivors of Domestic Violence

- Recommends increasing the funding for domestic abuse services by \$20M GPR annually.
 - Of that increase, \$6.2M GPR to increase funding for DCF's **domestic abuse grants**



Keeping children in family settings.



Strengthening Support for Kinship Caregivers

\$34M

**for
kinship
caregiver
supports**

\$16M

**for additional,
flexible financial
support to
kinship
caregivers**



Increased Support for Relative Caregivers and Foster Care Providers

- Increase monthly kinship care rates
 - Kinship care payments- based on age
 - Provide clothing allowance and exceptional payments for siblings placed together
 - Expand kinship care program to include “like-kin”
 - 62% total increase in funds to support kinship care providers
 - Prioritizes children residing with people who know and love them if they cannot be safely maintained in their home
- Creates a new program (**KinFlex**) of flexible support for kinship care providers, similar to TSSF - \$8M per year
- Level 1 provider payments- based on age
- Increase monthly age based foster care rates for level 2 and above by 5%



Targeted Supports

Maintaining Sibling Connections

- Provide \$75,000 for a grant program to provide siblings separated in out-of-home care with opportunities to be reunited, such as summer camps

Supporting Tribal Child Welfare

- Increased funding for tribal family services (an additional \$825,000 in SFY24 and \$1.1 million in SFY25)
- An additional \$3 million in both SFY 24 & SFY25 for high-cost out of home care placements to better support Native American children in the child welfare system.



Improvements to Child Welfare Infrastructure and Training

Supporting High Quality Congregate Care

- Continue \$200,000 investment in training providers to deliver quality services and supports to children and youth

State Supported QRTP

- Additional QRTP capacity in Milwaukee \$2.3M

Improving Child Welfare Data Systems

- \$2.4 million in SFY 24 & SFY25 to support enhancement to eWiSACWIS



Question

- What are you excited about in this package?
 - Prevention Services (Home Visiting/Domestic Violence funding)
 - Intensive In-Home Services
 - Increases in rates for kinship caregivers
 - Widening the definition of 'kin'



**Supporting youth in
their communities.**



Enhancing Programming for Underserved Youth

\$10M

over the biennium will return 17-year-olds to the youth justice system

\$4M

for increased statewide runaway and homeless youth service capacity and expansion of the PATHS Program

\$4M

for expanded independent living eligibility and services



Return 17-year-olds to the Youth Justice System

- Aligns with best practice and research on adolescent brain development
- Wisconsin is currently one of only three states that consider 17-year-olds to be adults.
- Funded with a sum-sufficient appropriation, initially funded at \$5 million annually, to reimburse counties with associated costs



Invest in community-based youth justice treatment and services

- Many communities lack the intensive, targeted services needed to keep youth safely at home.
- Invests \$17.9 million in **new** in-home service interventions to support efforts to keep families together
 - Build evidence-based prevention services and other family supports
 - Keep families together and reduce use of out-of-home care
 - Serves both child protection and youth justice populations



Improvements to Youth Justice infrastructure

Invest in training for Youth Justice professionals

- Currently there is no foundational training for Youth Justice professionals; has been identified by our stakeholders as an area of significant need.
- The bill invests over \$3.5 million in FY24 and FY25 to establish a statewide training system.

Improving Youth Justice Data Systems

- \$1.4 million to support continued development and enhancements to youth justice data and reporting systems.

Streamline Youth Aids Allocations



Advancing Continued Youth Justice Reform

Creation of a Juvenile Justice Reform Review Committee to study and provide recommendations for further reforms related to:

- Waivers and automatic adult court jurisdiction
- Minimum age of delinquency
- Serious Juvenile Offender Program
- Use of detention facilities
- Life imprisonment without parole for minors



Consolidating Youth-Serving Programs

- Current funding and statutory authority for youth-serving programs is siloed and fragmented – individual funding for runaway and homeless youth, youth affected by sex trafficking, and youth aging out of care.
- But these are many of the same youth, and they need services that are focused on the individual person, not the box they check.
- The bill provides a cost-neutral restructuring of multiple youth-serving appropriations to allow for a more flexible, coordinated, youth and community-driven approach to service provision.



Independent Living Expansion

- Services for youth who have aged out of care in the child protection or youth justice systems are solely supported by federal funding, resulting in overly narrow eligibility requirements and funding levels insufficient to meet their needs.
- Adds \$3.8 million to the independent living program to allow expansion of eligibility and enhanced supports for youth



Runaway and Homeless Youth Expansion

- Adds \$2.0 million annually to expand programs for Runaway and Homeless Youth
 - Funding would support additional programs, increasing the geographic reach of the RHY services
 - Funding would also expand the PATHS Program (Permanent connections, Academics, Training and employment, Housing and Social and emotional well-being) statewide. PATHS serves youths at imminent risk of homeless after exiting the child welfare system



It all fits together to create a fabric of support for children and families

- **Increases in community-based & in-home services** on the child welfare and youth justice side
- **Filling the gaps in services locally and providing more resources** to families to care for their children results in more children in their homes and communities.
- **De-siloing older youth services** means that our children can get served as they show up – not as a homeless youth or a youth who is being sex trafficked, but as a child who needs assistance.
- **Building the base of supports in the youth justice system** will keep more children in their communities and promote services close to home when that is not safely possible.



Question

- What are you most excited about in this package?
 - Returning 17-year-olds to the Youth Justice system
 - Advancing Youth Justice reform
 - Developing comprehensive Youth Justice trainings
 - Independent Living expansion
 - Runaway and Homeless Youth programming expansion

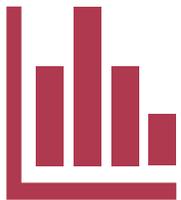


Here's how you can help . . .



Have conversations with your legislators.

- Write a letter supporting both the child welfare and youth justice components of the Governors budget
- Leave a public comment:
<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments/>
- Attend a Public Hearing!



Advocate for programs and services to support children remaining in home and in their communities.

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/budget>



Upcoming Budget Public Hearings

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Waukesha County Expo Center, Main Arena
1000 Northview Rd, Waukesha

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

UW-Eau Claire, Davies Student Center
Ojibwe Grand Ballroom (Third Floor)
77 Roosevelt Ave., Eau Claire

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wilderness Resort, Glacier Canyon Conference Center
Sandstone Meeting Room
45 Hillman Road, Wisconsin Dells

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lakeland Union High School
9573 State Highway 70, Minocqua

[Joint Committee on Finance Public Comment Website \(wisconsin.gov\)](https://www.wisconsin.gov/joint-committee-on-finance-public-comment-website)



New Communication Playbook Available!

A resource for agency directors and managers, created and reviewed in collaboration with stakeholders.

To **generate conversation and buy-in** across the state around the transformation.

To **leverage and grow local partnerships**.

To **help system partners better understand** Wisconsin's child welfare landscape.

1

Overview of
Putting Families First

2

Key Messages for
Stakeholders



<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first/playbook>



OVERVIEW



**Putting Families
First Mission
and Vision**

**Orientation to
the Child
Welfare System**

**Research on
Supporting
Children and
Families
Together**

**Preventing
Removals and
Investing in
Prevention**

**Wisconsin is
Transforming!**

STAKEHOLDERS



**Local Child
Welfare
Agencies**

**Tribal Child
Welfare
Agencies**

County Boards

Legal Partners

**Law
Enforcement**



Tell us about the **amazing work you do!**



Questions – email wendy.henderson@wisconsin.gov subject: Budget Question

